

spending and more cuts. It gives the President the ability to turn over the legislative rock and expose all the pork provisions and midnight deals to the light of day. Once exposed, they simply will not survive.

By enacting the line-item veto, we can trim billions of dollars off the deficit and restore accountability to the legislative process. Combined with the balanced budget amendment, it will force Congress to make those tough decisions we have avoided for years. It is one more tool in the fight against the deficit.

WORK SHOULD PAY

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, the message for today is that work should pay.

I proudly stood with the President of the United States when he said we must raise the minimum wage.

Right now, if you work on the minimum wage and you are lucky enough to have a job all year long and work 8 hours a day, you can bring home \$8,500. That is tough. Imagine how those people feel. And 60 percent of them are women trying to support their families. Imagine how they feel when they hear Congressmen making \$133,000 saying they cannot afford to live in Washington and they must live in their offices. Not only that, they get a tax advantage for living in Washington. Really this ought to be a bill that we pass by unanimous consent.

That is the least we can do for the working men and women of America. If we can raise this up, at least the average family will make \$10,500 for full-time work, and that is very important.

Make work pay. That is the message of the day.

CONGRESS KEEPING ITS WORD TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, America has a new Congress, new leadership, a new majority, a new direction, a new work ethic, and a new relationship with the American people. This Congress listened to the people and entered into a contract to make their voice heard.

What is also new is that this Congress is keeping its word. In bipartisan fashion, last week we passed a balanced budget amendment. This week another promise was fulfilled with the passage of the bill to stop unfunded mandates.

We signaled the end of the "Washington knows best" attitude of the Congresses that have preceded us. We ended the unprincipled, deceitful practice of Congress dumping expensive new laws and regulations on States and local communities and telling them, "Oh, by the way, you not only have to

do as we say, your taxpayers have to pay the cost of implementing them."

Mr. Speaker, in the process of reaffirming our faith in that system of government with the passage of these laws, I believe we also took another major step toward restoring America's faith in Congress.

SHOULD MINIMUM WAGE BE TIED TO MEXICAN WAGES?

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, at today's press conference, Speaker GINGRICH argued that the wages of American workers should not be raised because of the problems with the Mexican economy. Does the Speaker and the Republican Party really believe we should tie American wages, that the standard of living of American working families should be driven down to the standard of a living wage in Mexico?

It is time for us to stand up for working people in this country. People should be rewarded for their hard work. People who try to move from welfare to work should see that work pays. Yet a person on a minimum wage today who works hard, who works 40 hours a week, who takes responsibility for his or her action, who tries to raise a family finds that that family earns less than \$9,000 a year.

Mr. Speaker, that is below the poverty line. Ask yourself, how could you raise a family on less than \$9,000 a year?

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the increase in the minimum wage.

TERM LIMITS

(Mrs. MYRICK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind my colleagues that hearings begin today in subcommittee on the most fundamental congressional reform issue we will face this session—term limits.

As these hearings begin, I ask my colleagues to join team 290—a bipartisan group of Members of Congress committed to passing a term limits amendment in the 104th Congress.

We are gathering commitments to support final passage of a term limits amendment this session. Please join us by signing the team 290 board in the Speaker's lobby today. If you can't join today, the board will be up from 9 to 5:30 daily.

Please join team 290 and show your commitment to true congressional reform through term limits.

MINIMUM WAGE INCREASE

(Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the President's decision to raise the minimum wage.

This bold action is an important step in helping to make the American dream a reality for millions of hard-working Americans.

Far too many Americans are working fulltime, only to face the cruel reality that they do not earn enough to support their families.

Today, the minimum wage is worth 27 percent less than it was in 1979.

To allow the devaluation of reward for honest work to continue without positive adjustment is a travesty which demeans the worker and the value of work he or she performs.

This devaluation has added countless individuals to the welfare rolls—individuals who would prefer to work, if only they could support their families by doing so.

I endorse the President's decision to recognize the American worker in this manner.

The increase is justified. Workers have earned it time and again through the honest sweat of their brow.

We must no longer allow their honest efforts to go unnoticed or unrewarded.

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TERM LIMITS FOR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 66, which is offered by a fellow Georgian, a colleague of mine, a Democrat, NATHAN DEAL. It has bipartisan support, and I think it solves the problem that we are having on term limits, which is a philosophical debate amongst members of the same philosophical family. That is to say, should we pass a 12-year term limit or 6 or 8 years.

What the resolution offered by Representative DEAL does is say we will pass a bill, a constitutional amendment, requiring a 12-year term limit as the outer parameter, but if States want to continue with their own term limits under that amount, they are welcome to.

For example, the State of Florida right now has a term limit of 8 years. I believe California has one of 6 years. They can continue having that, and yet there will still be an overall limit of 12. This will help 19 States that already have term limit laws below 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, I think this is in line with the Contract With America, it has bipartisan support, and I urge its passage.

ON RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, it is time to raise the minimum wage. Today the minimum wage is \$4.25 an hour. It has not been changed in 4 years.

That means a person working full-time, 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, will earn less than \$9,000, and has not seen a raise in 4 years of work.

Families cannot live on that. No one can raise a child on that.

There is a lot of talk about work, not welfare. But if a full-time, minimum-wage worker cannot even earn enough to reach the poverty line, work will not be a real alternative to welfare.

Millions of Americans are working hard, trying desperately to make ends meet, but still falling farther behind. That is not fair.

We must reward work, help families help themselves. The minimum wage must be raised to a livable wage.

LINE-ITEM VETO

(Mr. PORTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, with the passage of the unfunded mandate reform bill and the balanced budget amendment, we are actually starting to change the way Washington works. We are laying the groundwork for a new era of accountability. The next important step is the line-item veto.

For too long Congress has sent the White House jumpacked, all-encompassing spending bills. This has meant the President has had to choose between signing unnecessary spending into law or shutting down the Government.

Every year questionable projects and tax benefits are included and buried in spending and tax bills. Let me give you a few examples. We have all heard them: \$500,000 to build the Lawrence Welk museum in North Dakota. Hundreds of millions to stockpile helium for the military, when we already have enough helium in storage to meet the entire world's needs for helium for the next 10 years; \$11.5 million for power plant modernization at the soon-to-be-closed Philadelphia Naval Shipyard; and \$25 million for an Arctic region supercomputer at the University of Alaska to study how to trap energy from the aurora borealis.

The line-item veto is needed because it would allow the President flexibility to weed out and strike other wasteful spending items in an otherwise good bill.

THE MINIMUM WAGE AND FAMILY VALUES

(Mr. DURBIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. speaker, now this is the Republican Party you remember.

The Republican Party and Speaker GINGRICH oppose raising the minimum wage so hard-working Americans can earn a decent living. The same Republican Party which reveres family values, refuses a minimum-wage increase to the working mother trying to help her kids.

The same Republican Party which promises a tax cut for those earning \$200,000 a year, denies 45 cents an hour to workers trying to feed their families. And the same Republicans who promise welfare reform and would rather build orphanages than create a minimum wage so people can lift themselves off of the dole.

The Grand Old Party. A lot of new faces and high-flying rhetoric, and even a new contract, but the same Republican insensitivity to the needs of average people.

A HOT 2 YEARS

(Mr. DORNAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, these are going to be 2 very difficult years, and I am going to try and save my thunder for outside the Halls of this Chamber and for New Hampshire and Iowa and other places. But I think every American should read the front page story of the Washington Post today on Mr. Clinton. It goes into A-4, and opens up, rips off, every tragic scab and scar from the 1992 campaign. Bob Woodward's book "Agenda" on page 287 has Mr. Clinton yelling, it says, "—— you" at a U.S. Senator, BOB KERREY, a Medal of Honor winner.

I am telling all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I saw George Stephanopoulos coming out of DICK GEPHARDT'S office the night before last. We know DICK has been in the press the last 2 days. Mr. Clinton is not going to be the nominee of your party. I believe it is going to be a Medal of Honor winner named BOB KERREY. That is going to create a lot of problems for our side.

Let us have a civil debate here. But when the gentleman from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN] gets up and hits my party, I have every right to say read "The Agenda," read "First in His Class," read the front page of the Post today. It is going to be a hot 2 years.

RAISE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. WARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of President Clinton's proposal to raise the minimum wage by just 45 cents an hour over each of the next 2 years. Those of you watching today need to notice that while we Democrats are talking about helping working families, speaker after speaker on the other side stands silent

on the increase in the minimum wage. They speak of anything but. That is because with inflation, the minimum wage has decreased almost 50 cents since 1991, and is currently only three-quarters of what it was in 1979.

How can we encourage people to get off of welfare when we do not provide them a decent wage? How can we say that we reward work over welfare when we do not provide the means by which an individual can achieve this goal?

Mr. Speaker, I applaud President Clinton's efforts, and I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this proposed increase.

DON'T LINK OUR SOVEREIGNTY TO MEXICO

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, is it in our best interest to link the economic security of this country to markets controlled by a nation with a record of bankruptcies and devaluations?

In fact is it proper to do free trade with a country that has a history of these devaluations, repudiations of debts and a country that lacks real democratic reforms? Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about President Clinton's decision to bail out Mexico.

Let us face the facts—Mexico's political system has not been reformed as rapidly as its economy, and therein lies the problem.

Government corruption continues, particularly in the form of bribes and kickbacks for government projects and there is a large black market. There is no middle class and most of the wealth is controlled by a few families.

Mexico's average inflation rate from 1980 to 1991 was 66.5 percent. There is a high level of regulation and there needs more privatization of government businesses.

If we are to rely on back door bail-outs for countries that have this economic history, then I question the New World Economic Order.

Mr. Speaker, the President should not link our economic sovereignty to a nation that does not have sound economic and political policies.

TIME TO RAISE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, now I have heard it all. Now I have heard everything. At his press conference today Speaker GINGRICH was asked about the minimum wage. He was asked if he plans to support a minimum-wage increase. You know what he said? He said we cannot raise the minimum wage. We can't raise it above \$4.25. And do you know why? He said because of the problems with the Mexican economy. He